

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

April 26, 2011

Proclaim April 25 through 30, 2011 as National Community Development Week

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, enacted in 1974, has long been considered the most successful federally supported local program ever approved by Congress. The CDBG Program gives state, city, and county governments the flexibility to target funds to locally determined priority needs, primarily to benefit low- and moderate-income residents, and to help eliminate slums and blight.

The County of Los Angeles, through the Community Development Commission, administers the largest CDBG Urban County Program in the nation, encompassing the unincorporated County of Los Angeles (County) areas and 47 participating cities.

2011 marks the 37th anniversary of the CDBG Program. Since its inception, the CDBG Program has consistently provided assistance to low and moderate income residents of Los Angeles County through a variety of economic development, public service, recreation, and housing rehabilitation programs. CDBG funds provide services to youth and seniors, the homeless, persons with HIV/AIDS, and persons with special needs. Strong partnerships among county departments, participating cities, and community-based organizations have helped ensure the quality and effectiveness of the CDBG Program.

During the past fiscal year, the CDBG Program provided services to approximately 102,900 persons living with HIV/AIDS; created or renovated 8,700 housing units and served 744,400 persons through housing rehabilitation, rental assistance, and code enforcement programs; provided economic development technical

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assistance to 2,000 businesses; constructed or renovated 5,600 public facilities; provided public services to over 1.2 million persons through almost 100 non-profit agencies; provided supportive services to 4,700 seniors; and provided services and activities to 4,000 youth.

The Los Angeles Urban County CDBG Program substantially exceeded the Federal requirement to expend 70% of its funds for the benefit of low- and moderate-income persons. In the past fiscal year, the CDBG Program expended \$24.6 million, or 94% of its total CDBG expenditures, for the benefit of low and moderate income persons.

However, the CDBG Program is facing unprecedented threats to its existence as a result of pressures to reduce the federal deficit. Proposals have ranged from modest reductions to the program up to outright elimination, while ignoring the potential distress on low/moderate residents who already are disproportionately affected by the recession, and the negative economic impact that could result from the loss of CDBG dollars to local communities. Between 2003 and 2009, the County of Los Angeles expended \$288 million in CDBG funds, but it was also able to leverage an additional \$287 million from other public and private sources during the same period. It is vital that the CDBG Program continue to provide funding for economic development, public services, housing, neighborhood development, and supportive services.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Proclaim April 25 through 30, 2011 as National Community Development Week in the County of Los Angeles in order to recognize the history and accomplishments of the Community Development Block Grant Program.

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